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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1920.

Harding Lands His Tarpon

DOWN at the tip end of Texas, in Gulf
waters, President-Elect Harding is en-
joying the "sport of kings." This is not
meant to imply that he is not democratic
in the true American sense of the term, for
he insists that he is all of that, and the
American people have taken him at his
word and by overwhelming expression
chosen him as the head of our democratic
representative government. But it is such
a fine sport, and kings are supposed to be
preferred for the best in life, that when one
becomes the guest of fishermen in tropical
or semitropical waters the highest tribute
of esteem that can be paid the visitor is to
give him a chance to hook and land a
tarpon.

Keen to show his appreciation of the
honor conferred on him by the invitation,
the President-elect on the day after his ar-
rival at Point Isabel donned fisherman togs
and hid himself to the sport. Although he
looked one on this trip, he failed to
land it. Nothing daunted, he renewed the
effort the next day and was rewarded by
landing a Megalops thrissoides, the species
that inhabits these waters, four feet and
two inches long. To him, over and above
the feeling experienced when his election
was assured, this was "the thrill that comes
but once in a lifetime."

The sport of angling for tarpon with rod
and line is the most skillful and exciting
which America affords. The angler goes
in a small boat some distance from shore,
with an experienced man to row it, and
uses a heavy rod, seven and one-half to
eight feet long, with a multiplying reel,
200-250 yards of linen line, and a spoon
bait. When a fish weighs, say 100 pounds
seizes this, and begins those rushes and
mighty leaps which have given the silver
king the just title of greatest of game
fishes, the power and science of the angler
are both tested in the highest degree. The
news story says the President-elect landed
his victim in fifteen minutes. Had he
hooked a six-footer, he would have had
a much more strenuous tussle. Even the
most expert anglers have been known to
consume as much as two hours and to have
been carried two or three miles out to sea
before they landed their prize.

The experience of the President-elect in
tarpon fishing may serve him usefully in
his future duties as head of the govern-
ment. Ahead of him there are strenuous
days in the effort to bring about a world
association to offer as a substitute for the
existing league of nations. Maybe the
tricks he learned in subduing the silver
king will come in handy in this effort, and
in the greater undertaking of bringing the
statesmen of Europe around to the point
of accepting his plan. Good luck to him,
and may success crown his efforts!

Tokyo is said to be uncertain as to the
results of the G. O. P. victory. At least a
point in common with the United States
as a basis for future negotiations!

America as an Onlooker

IT has been announced that Italy and Jugoslavia
have reached an agreement effecting set-
tlement of the Adriatic question, thus re-
lieving the tension that has several times
within recent months threatened to culmi-
nate in armed conflict between the two
countries. In the settlement of the Adriatic
is to be independent, with territory contiguous to
Italy, several islands are awarded to Italy,
while the Istrian frontier is rectified
favorably to the claims of Jugoslavia.

Coincident with this settlement, it is
stated upon the authority of high officials
that the State Department has begun to
relax its attitude in some of the diplomatic
problems with which it has been dealing,
among them the question of Fiume and the
Adriatic, with which the Washington ad-
ministration had particularly concerned it-

self, thereby provoking the enmity of the
Italian people through refusal to approve
their contentions.

This attitude of the State Department is
due to the result of the election and the
impending change of administration, in
which it is foreseen that the policies pur-
sued by the Wilson administration will not
be continued by its successor. The state-
ment already has been made that in the
case of the problem presented by the crea-
tion of spheres of influence in Turkey by
the allied powers, it was doubtful whether
the United States would find it possible to
arrive at a basis of objection because of the
uncertainty as to what part America would
play in world affairs under the new Re-
publican administration.

Since it now amounts almost to a cer-
tainty that the United States will not be-
come a member of the league as at present
constituted, the action of the State Depart-
ment in withdrawing from further partici-
pation in the solution of the diplomatic prob-
lems with which the league is charged
seems the proper thing to do. It is due
the new administration that it be left as
free as possible to inaugurate a foreign
policy of its own choosing, without being
handicapped by commitments of the re-
tiring administration, in the interval between
the election and the inauguration, to a
course of action antagonistic to its own
views as to what is best for the country.

Only one Smith will be found in the next
Senate. A tribute to the well-known fam-
ily's sterling democracy.

A Problem in Readjustment

ON the face of their balance sheets, Vir-
ginia and Carolina farmers proclaim
that present prices of tobacco do not cover
their cost of production, and they are
threatened with heavy monetary loss, and
in many cases utter ruin. In this common
exigency they have formed an association,
now in session, two objects of which are
the holding of the present crop for higher
prices and a material curtailment of next
year's planting. Both objects are legiti-
mate and should prove effective in the
grower's interest although they will result
in the maintenance of the manufactured
product at top prices, a burden that the
consumer must shoulder.

The public is interested in the farmer's
fight for a reasonable profit on his crop.
It does not want him to sell at a loss. It is
possible, however, that certain factors en-
tering into his estimated cost of production
do not properly belong there. Let us see.
The farmer insists that he must have \$36
for his bright tobacco or lose money. Be-
fore the war, which sent prices soaring to
\$50, the farmer made a reasonable profit
and was satisfied with \$15. That was con-
sidered a good figure on the Virginia and
Carolina markets. Then came the war and
the figures went skyward. So also did the
cost of labor and every other item of pro-
duction expense. But the farmer made
more money than he ever had dreamed of
making. The inevitable result was that he
changed his mode of living. Tractors and
automobiles took the place of the lowly
mule and the steel-tired buggy. Today the
tobacco farmer is the best dressed of all the
men who come about the local markets.
His whole scale of living has ascended be-
cause of his affluence, attributable to the
war prices that he must have known could
not continue. Maintenance of that scale
of living now is charged against his cost
of production and naturally present prices
leave a deficit in his bank account. Per-
haps if he would consent to a general
lowering of his living expenses, eliminate
certain luxuries, justified during the war,
but easily dispensable now, he would find
his cost of production would come nearer
a reasonable level and give him a fair mar-
gin of profit even at the present market.
The tobacco farmer, in common with all
the rest of us, must realize that the silk-
shirt era has passed, that fancy prices are
impossible, and we must get down again
to the brass-tack essentials.

Bright tobacco figures are ascending
slowly. They are now around \$23 to \$25
this early in the season with the prospect
they will go as high as \$27 to \$30, but no
higher. If the farmers' actual cost of pro-
duction is around \$36, as they insist, then
they will have to pocket the season's loss,
the while undertaking a readjustment of
standards that will prevent its repetition
next year. Even this year they can give
themselves a measure of protection by mak-
ing their holdings with less haste. With
tobacco jamming the warehouses, and the
buyers, because of the strain in the money
market, unable to handle more than a fixed
amount daily, each plant militates against
higher prices to the producers. Let the
farmers generally market slowly and in
quantities only sufficient to their immediate
financial requirements, and an improvement
is almost certain to be noted.

Curtailling of next year's crop perhaps
would be a blessing to the farmer and to
the country itself. The one-crop craze has
been the curse of the South. A wider diver-
sity would make it self-supporting and put
money in his pocket. The Times-Dis-
patch has preached this doctrine for years,
but the farmers have been slow to accept
it. Let them curtail the tobacco next year,
but their acres thus made available in grass,
wheat, corn, or other staples, and they will
have less cause to worry when tobacco
prices slump. It is a condition that the
farmer faces, not a theory of high prices
artificially forced down, and he must meet
it sanely and courageously.

Argentine Congress has its little block
of obstinate Senators who have obstructed
all administration measures. Limitation, even
of the United States, can be carried too far.

It will not be necessary to rename babies
christened "James" before November 2.
But what if it had been Gamaliel who lost?

Western goat breeders plan campaign to
increase number of angoras. Probably be-
cause so many were lost last week.

Timely is suggested as the reorganizer
of the Democratic party. That would only
make it tumultuous.

Eight stills destroyed in the Dismal
Swamp. That's what makes it dismal.

Chicago fashion note says that hip pockets
are no longer popular—or necessary.

No, the "outbreak in Bologna" is a war,
not a market report.

SEEN ON THE SIDE

BY HENRY EDWARD WARNER

If a Dog Could Speak.
I've often thought, if a dog could speak
He'd have plenty of things to say.
For things to talk about naturally come
In the average real dog's way.
But I'd hate to be one of his topics, for
The dog must speak, when he can.
Of the various things he's compelled to think
Of the two-legged beast called Man.

And what would he say of the biped hitched
To the other end of his chain?
I once led a pup, and his thought of me
Is connected with psychic pain!
And what would he say of the satiric lap
That he sat in, as what d'you suppose
He thinks and would say of the bonbon box
And the kiss on his willing nose?

And the things we think, and the things we do
That are seen by a Dog—I say,
Just what's his opinion? What would he bark
If he came by his speech today?
And the more I think that a dog can't speak,
The greater my streak of luck—
If the Dog I know starts talking, O boy!
I'll hit for the stairs and knock!

Charcoal Bp's Daily Thought.
"Way back when Adam was," said Char-
coal Bp, moodily, "he only thing he had 't
worry about was mebbe dey must be a worm
in de apple. Try a hunk o' pie, Mistah Jack-
son."

The Stenographer's Dictionary.

"Mr. Warner Dear Sir: I am a regular reader
of your column and I am also a typewriter
otherwise known as a stenographer. You have
had several items in your column purporting to
be stenographer's dictionaries making it look
like stenographers don't know how to spell.
Maybe this is true as to some but I assure you
not many. For myself I am a good speller
and I know others who are also. For the
sake of them I hope you will not publish any
more such things. It does not signify my name
because I am too well known but if you want
to meet me to argue about this say so and I
will let you know what time I get out."
"Clarice J."

Picked Up at Random.

The shortest words start the longest dis-
putes.

A cinch lasts only until business begins.

The stinkiest man on Earth has his wasteful
moments.

Buggy-riding is dangerous; it leads to matrimony.

Comparison.

"What a beautiful little Miss Perkins is!"
"Yes; but you should have seen her last
week when she was a brunette!"

O Joy.

"Hello, honey!"
Mrs. Bustledom fairly hugged her returning
husband.

"Do you know, dearie—or have you forgot-
ten—that this is our twentieth wedding an-
niversary?"

"Yes, I know it, sweetheart," said Bustledom,
mildly. "Something happened just now that
reminded me of it."

"Oh, honey. Did a little bird sing sweetly,
as the one did that day when—"

"Naw; nothing like it. I just met the land-
lord, and he told me to pay up or move."

Up With the Times

Republicans talk of an extra session after
the inauguration. That's a strange way to
begin fulfillment of their economy pledges.

Deer in Pennsylvania ran thirty-five miles
an hour. But the Deers in Richmond are
speedier than that.

Men's clothing drops 50 per cent, says a
headline. With the 40 per cent that they al-
ready have, women's clothes will hardly dare
to equal that tumble.

Twelve big league baseball clubs cry, "Too
much Johnson!" and refuse to stay under the
Ban.

McAdoo declares: "The Democratic party
still lives!" Ah! he's seen it finger move.

Senator Harding declines to meet General
O'Brien lest it add to Wilson's troubles. Such
tender solicitude may be attributed to the
fact that the election is over.

Australian poet mourns that he can't under-
stand pumpkin pie. He should try the Rich-
mond kind, which is always a poem.

Texas promises to furnish another "mystery
man" to guide the coming administration.
Texas, forbear! The House of silence was
sufficient.

Harding will go to Panama on a fruit boat.
And not a lemon in the cargo!

Appetite of Maine man who ate forty-six
eggs at a sitting is not so astounding as his
reckless extravagance.

"Bumble Day" means that you must come
down town with a package, not go home with
one.

Spirit of Virginia Press

A friend writes that he thinks Bascom
Siemp would not be the first Southern Re-
publican in a President's Cabinet. As he re-
calls, both D. M. Key and Horace Maynard
served as Postmaster-General under Hayes.—
Boston News Courier.

Mr. Key was a Democrat, often jestingly re-
ferred to by President Hayes as "our erring
brother." Mr. Akerman, of Georgia, served as
Attorney-General under President Grant.

Norfolk and Western Railway officials have
recently stated that some of the coal mines
along that line have failed to close down for
lack of orders, and this leads the Newport
News-Herald to remark: "And yet the coal
dealers of Newport News say that it is
difficult to secure an ample supply of coal here
at any price. What does it all mean? The
public will not be trifled with much longer."

"Of course," says the Roanoke Times, "a
typical old Virginia welcome awaits President-
Elect Harding when he visits Bedford Decem-
ber 5. It is to be hoped that he will prove
that he knows a good thing when he sees it by
coming up to Roanoke while he is in the
neighborhood."

It is evident that Senator Carter Glass is
still occasionally doing some editorial work
on his paper, the Lynchburg News. The fol-
lowing from its columns at least indicates as
much: "Graciously ungrateful to the national
Democratic party, and this leads the New-
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Health Talks by Dr. Brady

Weak Eyes and Strong Eyes.

(Copyright, 1920, by National Newspaper Service.)
Eyes which are clear and free from red-
ness or congestion are not necessarily strong
eyes in the sense of having good vision.
A great many readers ask whether bor-
ic acid solution is a good remedy for weak
eyes, and some other medicinal applica-
tions to the eyes which are intended to
strengthen them. The answer is that bor-
ic acid solution is a good remedy for weak
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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

ON TOPICS OF THE DAY

Miss Dorset Corrects Errors in Re-
port of Her Address to Women's
League.

To the Richmond Times-Dispatch:
I wish to correct two errors in your issue of today, and in
quoting what I said yesterday to the
League of Women Voters.

In speaking of our legislative work
for the coming session of Congress,
I urged the League of Women Voters
to support the Smith-Towner bill,
which covers the principle of co-
operative Federal aid to the States
to protect American motherhood and
reduce infant mortality. The bill has
no connection with the high cost of
living.

In speaking of the maternity
bill I said the Democratic platform
included this measure, while the Re-
publican platform did not, but that
the League of Women Voters would
work with the Democratic and
Socialist women members to work
for the passage of the bill at the ses-
sion of Congress, urging the send-
ing of tele